

**REMARKS**

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The examiner insists that terms "upper" and "lower" are relative terms and indefinite, and rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The applicants insert the criterion "bottom" in claim 5. The lower portion is closer to the bottom than the upper portion. The applicants believe that the criterion makes claim 5 clear.

The examiner takes the position that claims 1-19 are anticipated by Broadmoore, and rejects these claims under 35 U.S.C. 102. The applicants amend claim 1, and think that amended claim 1 is distinguishable from the teachings of Broadmoore.

A particular feature of the present invention defined in claim 1 directed to the bottom board formed with plural holes through which the plungers of the plural actuators pass. This feature is desirable, because the bottom board is enhanced in mechanical strength. (see description, page 27, the last six lines). Please note that the bottom board defines the bottom of the case, not a part of the bottom, because the side board is connected to the periphery of the bottom board. In other words, the bottom board bears the tone generating mechanism so that large mechanical strength is required for the bottom board.

Broadmoore discloses an automatic player piano, and the striker solenoids (3A, 3B) are put in the transverse slot (9), which is formed in the piano keyboard (1), as shown in figure 2. The transverse slot (9) is closed with the mounting plate (2) (see column 5, lines 38 to 41), and the striker solenoids (3A, 3B) are supported by the mounting plate (2), (see column 5, lines 49 to 51). Plural holes are formed in the mounting plate (2), and the striker solenoids (3A, 3B) pass through the plural holes.

The examiner makes the mounting plate (2) correspond to the "bottom plate", and insists that particular feature of the present invention is taught by Broadmoore. The

applicants argue that the mounting plate (2) is not corresponding to the bottom board, because the side board is not connected to the periphery of the mounting plate (2). In other words, the mounting plate (2) is only expected to bear the striker solenoids (3A, 3B), and the keyboard (1) bears the keys (10, 11), which form parts of the tone generating mechanism. As admitted by Broadmoore, the transverse slot (9) is formed in the keyboard (1) so that the user will suffer from the deformation of the keyboard (1). In other words, the bottom board defined in amended claim 1 is advantageous over the keyboard (1). Thus, the present invention defined in amended claim 1 is not only distinguishable from but also advantageous over the teachings of Broadmoore. Claims 2 to 13 are directly and indirectly dependent on amended claim 1, and the particular feature is brought into those dependent claims. For this reason, claims 2 to 13 are also distinguishable from and advantageous over the teachings of Broadmoore.

The applicants further amend independent claim 14. The inserted words "connected to the periphery of a side board" makes the present invention defined in amended claim 14 distinguishable from and advantageous over the teachings of Broadmoore. Claims 15 to 19 are directly and indirectly dependent on amended claim 14, and the inserted words also make claims 15 to 19 distinguishable from and advantageous over the teachings of Broadmoore.

As described hereinbefore, the applicants believe that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 is traversed.

Application No. 10/616,167  
Amendment dated October 12, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2005

Docket No.: 2552-000050/US

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0750, under Order No. 2552-000050/US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: Oct 12, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By Gregory A. Stobbs

Gregory A. Stobbs  
Registration No.: 28,764  
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
5445 Corporate Drive  
Suite 400  
Troy, Michigan 48098  
(248) 641-1214  
Attorney for Applicant